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PATENTANWÄLTE RECHTSANWÄLTE

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

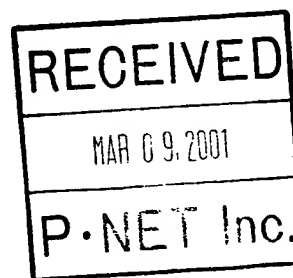
☐ abstract

☐ title

☒ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

NONE



REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 11 7225

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
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| A | EP 0 472 869 A (DEGUSSA) 4 March 1992 (1992-03-04) * page 5, paragraph 3 - last paragraph * | 1-5 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) |
| | | | C12N |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 16 February 2001 | Examiner Mata Vicente, T. |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | | | |

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 11 7225

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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16-02-2001

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ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

00117225.3

Plasmid isolated from *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes* or a derivative thereof, wherein said plasmid has a size of about 4.4kb or about 6kb and comprises a gene coding for a Rep protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a sequence at least 90% homologous to the same.